

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 TOKYO 18215 240336Z

64

ACTION OES-05

INFO OCT-01 EA-09 ISO-00 HEW-06 AGR-10 EPA-04 /035 W

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P 240325Z DEC 75

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5718

UNCLAS TOKYO 18215

DEPT (OES/APT/BMP) PASS TO DR. ALBERT C. KOLBYE, JR., ASSOC.
DIR. FOR SCIENCE, FDA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TGEN, SENV, JA

SUBJECT: SAMPLE OF PCB-CONTAMINATED OIL

REF: FDA TELEX 12/22/75

1. SCICOUNS WELCOMES OPPORTUNITY TO ASSIST FDA IN OBTAINING
SAMPLE OF ORIGINAL PCB-CONTAMINATED RICE OIL (KANEMI OIL).
EXPLORATORY DISCUSSION WITH MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND WELFARE
INDICATED NO OBJECTION AND CONFIRMED THAT PROFESSOR KURATSUNE WAS
BEST CONTACT. PHONE CALL TO KURATSUNE PROVIDED ADDITIONAL
INFORMATION.

2. REMAINING INVENTORY OF KANEMI OIL HAS BEEN IMPOUNDED BY ORDER
OF JAPANESE COURT, SINCE DAMAGE SUITS STILL IN LITIGATION.
HOWEVER, A FEW SMALL SAMPLES ARE BELIEVED TO BE IN VARIOUS
LABORATORIES. KURATSUNE HAS NONE, BUT WILL CALL COLLEAGUE IN
OSAKA WHO MAY BE ABLE TO FURNISH SAMPLE. HE RECALLS ALSO THAT
SAMPLES WERE SENT TO CANADIAN NATIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY
AND TO LAB IN NETHERLANDS.

3. KURATSUNE CAUTIONS THAT IF HE CAN OBTAIN SAMPLE IN JAPAN,
IT WILL BE SMALL--PERHAPS ONE OR TWO GRAMS. HOPE THIS WILL BE
SUFFICIENT FOR ANALYSIS.

4. SCICOUNS DID NOT RAISE POSSIBILITY OF FDA TEAM COMING TO
JAPAN TO PERFORM ANALYSES, SINCE THIS MIGHT HAVE DETRACTED FROM
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PAGE 02 TOKYO 18215 240336Z

IMPETUS TO SEARCH FOR SAMPLES. WILL BRING UP THIS ALTERNATIVE

WHEN KURATSUNE REPORTS BACK, IF NECESSARY.

5. EMBASSY NOT CERTAIN THAT ITS PREVIOUS REPORTING ON PCB CONTAMINATION STANDARDS WAS PASSED TO FDA, SINCE REPORTING WAS ORIGINALLY DESTINED FOR EPA. SUGGEST DEPT INSURE THAT DR. KOLBYE HAS SEEN TOKYO 11806 AND TOKYO 17930. FIRST REFTEL NOTES (PARA 6) THAT PERMISSIBLE LEVEL IN JAPAN FOR PCB IN FISH/SHELLFISH IS 3 REPEAT 3 PPM FOR NEARSHORE VARIETIES AND 0.5 REPEAT 0.5 PPM FOR OPEN OCEAN VARIETIES, IN CONTRAST TO FDA GUIDELINE OF 5 PPM. HOWEVER, JAPANESE LIMITS SET ON BASIS OF HUMAN UPTAKE LIMIT OF 5 REPEAT 5 MICROGRAMS PCB PER KILOGRAM BODY WEIGHT PER DAY, AND ALTHOUGH JAPANESE AVERAGE BODY WEIGHT OF 50 KILOGRAMS IS PROBABLY SMALLER THAN U.S. AVERAGE, FISH/SHELLFISH CONSUMPTION PER CAPITA IS PROBABLY CONSIDERABLY HIGHER.

6. IF DR. KOLBYE OR ASSOCIATES WISH FURTHER INFORMATION BY PHONE, THEY MAY CALL SCICOUNS AT HIS HOME IN TOKYO ANY TIME OVER XMAS WEEKEND, NUMBER 473-2992, OR AT OFFICE DURING WORK HOURS, 583-7141, EXT. 561/562.
HODGSON

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Message Attributes

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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Status: NATIVE
Subject: SAMPLE OF PCB-CONTAMINATED OIL
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